REMARKS

I.   Status of case

Claims 1-19 are currently pending in this case. Claims 1, 7 and 9 are independent claims.

II.   Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,661,877) in view of Bedya (U.S. Patent No. 6,505,237). Applicants believe that claims 1, 7, and 9 as currently presented distinguish over the cited references either alone or in combination.

A.   The cited references fail to teach a mail server that includes a "predetermined character string" separate from the e-mail that commands the mail client to process/store the e-mail in nonvolatile memory

Claim 1 recites

> generating by the mail server at least one predetermined character string, the at least one predetermined character string being separate from the e-mail selected by the user and indicative of a command to the mail client to activate the e-mail processing program and store the e-mail transmitted by the mail server in a nonvolatile memory,

> in response to receiving the at least one predetermined character string transmitted from the mail server, automatically activating the e-mail processing program and storing by the mail client in the nonvolatile memory the e-mail transmitted from the mail server

See also claims 7 and 9. As recited, the mail server generates the "predetermined character string" which is separate from the e-mail and commands the mail client to automatically activate the e-mail processing program and store the e-mail into nonvolatile memory. In other words, the decision to store the e-mail at the mail client in nonvolatile memory is already made prior to the e-mail being sent to the mail client so that the mail client does not need to make that decision. Further, the predetermined character string may also command the mail client to automatically activate the e-mail processing program. For example, the automatic activation may determine whether the e-mail processing program is activated, and if not activate the e-mail processing program. See claims 12 and 19. Thus, as recited, the predetermined character string results in two actions: (1) automatically activating the e-mail processing program; and (2) automatically storing the e-mail in non-volatile memory. These two actions work in combination to provide a synergistic effect in managing the processing/storing of the e-mail at the mail client.

In contrast, the cited references, similar to the prior art discussed in the background section of the present application, require some action at the mail client (either user action or

mail client action) in order to process/store the received e-mail. See paragraph [0008] ("user operations including designation of a storing location or a filename and input of a storing command are necessary when storing the received HTML data as email in a non-volatile memory."). For example, the attachment filter 42 in the Beyda reference is resident at the mail client, examines the received e-mail based on preferences input from the user, and stores the email in memory 44 based on comparing the e-mail with the preferences. See col. 5, lines 10-13 ("The attachment filter 42 is a programmable component that can determine which attached files are to be downloaded from the local router/server 12 to the memory 44 of the client device 14.") Applicants disagree with the characterization in the Office Action that "attachment identification and subject line" constitute an "instruction". Instead, the "attachment identification and subject line" are merely data that is used by the attachment filter 42 in the Beyda reference in order to determine, based on the user input preferences, whether to store the e-mail in memory 44.
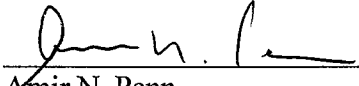
The present claims as recited remove the decision from the mail client. Specifically, the present claims recite adding at least one predetermined character string (which is apart and separate from the e-mail) that acts to command the mail client to process/store the e-mail in the nonvolatile memory. In effect, the decision whether to store has already been made prior to receipt at the mail client so that the mail client need not make the decision and instead need only carry out the command. And, the decision whether activating the e-mail processing program is necessary has also been made prior to receipt at the mail client. This combined use of the predetermined character string to process/store the e-mail is thus patentable over the cited art.

One example of the sending of the command is by using multiple communications: a first communication from the mail server to the mail client acknowledging receipt of the identification information (which includes the predetermined character string); and a second communication from the mail server to the mail client containing the e-mail specified by the identification information (also which includes the predetermined character string). See claims 13 and 16. For this reason alone, claims 1, 7, and 9 are patentable over the cited art.

SUMMARY

If any questions arise or issues remain, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number listed below in order to expedite disposition of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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